

Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 /060 W

----- 115867

R 131707Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6890

SECDEF WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

AMCONGEN ANTWERP

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRUSSELS 4795

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MMOL, MASS, MARR, BE, US

SUBJECT: RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF ZEEBRUGGE

REF: BRUSSELS 4186

1. PARA 6 REFTEL REPORTED THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD CONCLUDED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO GET ZEEBRUGGE PORT AUTHORITIES TO RESCIND OR MODIFY THEIR POSITION LIMITING QUANTITIES OF MUNITIONS IN ZEEBRUGGE.

2. PRESIDENT OF PORT AUTHORITY, WHO ALSO BRUGGE ALDERMAN, TRUEN, IS REPORTED IN LOCAL PRESS (HET LAASTE NIEUWS, MAY 13) TO HAVE VISITED PENTAGON TO EXPLAIN MEASURES TAKEN BY LOCAL OFFICIALS. ARTICLE IN SUMMARY EMBASSY TRANSLATION STATES:
"FOR THE ZEEBRUGGE DOCKERS THERE STILL MIGHT BE A SMALL CHANCE TO ESCAPE LAYOFF. SOME TWO WEEKS AGO MANAGEMENT AND THE UNIONS HAD COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE BAN ON SHIPMENTS OF NATO MUNITIONS WOULD ENTAIL THE DISMISSAL OF SOME 100 DOCKERS. THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES HAD IMPOSED THE BAN FOR SAFETY

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REASONS. AFTER HAVING VISITED THE U.S., ALDERMAN TRAEN,

PRESIDENT OF THE ZEEBRUGGE HARBOR BOARD, NOW DECLARES THAT U.S. FORCES REMAIN INTERESTED IN ZEEBRUGGE. THEY ARE WILLING TO SHOW COMPREHENSION FOR THE IMPOSED SAFETY MEASURES. THIS MAKES IT POSSIBLE TO RECONSIDER THE SHIPMENTS WITHIN THE IMPOSED 1,800 TON MAXIMUM LIMITS. SOME U.S. SHIPOWNERS ALSO SHOW SOME INTEREST IN A CONTAINERLINE WITH ZEEBRUGGE. MR. TRAEN HAS ALSO DECLARED THAT IF REDUCTION OF THE AMMUNITION SHIPMENTS FINALLY WOULD ENTAIL LAYOFFS AN ATTEMPT WOULD BE MADE TO FIND ALTERNATIVE JOBS."

3. COMMENT: TRAEN IS RUNNING HARD TO MAINTAIN HIS SEAT IN THE FORTHCOMING OCTOBER COMMUNAL ELECTIONS. END COMMENT.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON TRAEN'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND ANY COMMENTS BY US EXPLOSIVES SAFETY EXPERTS ON ZEEBRUGGE DOCUMENTS (BRUSSELS 1568), TRANSLATIONS OF WHICH WERE DISTRIBUTED BY STATE.FIRESTONE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MUNITIONS CONTROLS, ZEEBRUGGE, ACCESS TO PORTS, PORT FACILITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Errors: N/A
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Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
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Review Date: 01 APR 2004
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Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
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04 MAY 2006

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